



William Allen White Family LIFE & TIMES

March/April 2007



Frequent UK Visitors to Return

The David family will visit Emporia for the third time in mid April 2007. What is unique about this is that the family lives in Cotswold, England and study William Allen and Mary White. This will be the family's third visit to Emporia and the White House Historic Site since it opened in May 2005.

Amy David is a home-schooling mother for her two children. Both Philippe and Celine are working to recite Gazette Poet Walt Mason's *Little Green Tents*. On this visit the Davids will visit the ESU University Archives and the White family grave site to do rubbings.

The David family is Franco-Kansan. Amy Woods David is a Wichitan. Andre David is French and is a professional with Schlumberger, a manufacturing and leasing company for the petroleum indus-

try. The family now lives in the United Kingdom. Visits to Wichita and family have afforded the opportunity to plan educational day-trips to William Allen White's Emporia.

The David children posed a question in February 2005 that has stumped the White scholars, researchers and historians. It is a simple question that remains unanswered today with primary source material. The question: "What was the name of Mary's horse?"

In England there are many examples of Tudor architecture. Red Rocks is Tudor Revival style. Learn more about the historic Cotswold region in England by visiting this link:
<http://www.cotswolds.info/>



Photo: Amy David

Young Sage Scholars

Celine and Philippe David proudly pose with mother Amy in this 2006 photo. In the Cotswold region of England the children study W. A. White, his daughter Mary and the Progressive period in American History.

*A publication of the William Allen White Community Partnership, Inc.
for the Friends of the William Allen White House State Historic Site*

The Tale of Two Teddys: Dog and President

Former president Theodore Roosevelt was the first American to win a Nobel Prize. His exploits were legend in his lifetime as Rough Rider, builder of the Panama Canal, proponent of the National Park system and trust-busting reformer. He captured the public's imagination. His visit as guests of old friend William Allen White was eagerly anticipated by all of Emporia. His independent run for president on the National Progressive ticket was in full swing.

The weekend visit afforded the former president a chance to attend Sunday worship services in Emporia. The Whites were First Congregationalists and on that particular September Sunday virtually every member turned out to share the service with the famous visitor. Editor White, being a gracious host, asked the former president where he would like to attend church. Roosevelt suggested a church other than the First Congregational and the entourage worshiped with twenty pleasantly surprised parishioners.

William Allen White was criticized for not hiring an automobile to squire the president during his visit. Roosevelt actually preferred and enjoyed the carriage ride about town pulled by Old Tom, the Whites' livery horse. White brought the first car to Emporia for exhibit in 1899, bought his personal automobile in 1919, but throughout his life never learned to drive.

When Bill and Mary White were younger, the family got a pet for the children and named it for the president. In the spring of 1923, the dog disappeared. Mr. White wrote an editorial asking readers to help find the dog. The editorial unleashed a flood of reader replies and calls. Old Teddy had gone away to die. The fox terrier was found weak and emaciated 10 miles east of



Image credit: Photo White Collection, ESU Archives

Progressives Pose – The Sage, Bull Moose and Fox Terrier

In September of 1912, the White family hosted their most famous guest, former president Theodore Roosevelt. If you look carefully you can see two Teddys in the photo. Former president Roosevelt (upper center) was the namesake for the popular stuffed bear. Often overlooked on young William Lindsay White's lap (center) is the Whites' fox terrier, Teddy. Roosevelt inspired the name.

Emporia and was returned to the family. Teddy died two weeks later in the care of the family that loved him. Mary had died in 1921. The little dog probably represented a vestige of a happier time.

Learn more about Theodore Roosevelt by visiting:
<http://www.theodoreroosevelt.org/>



William Allen White House State Historic Site

Hours: Wednesday - Saturday, 9am - 5pm

Group Tours: For groups of 10 or more, call for arrangements

Admission: \$5.00 adults; \$3.00 Seniors (60 and above) & \$2.00 students (k-12, college), annual passes are available, KSHS members admitted free.

927 Exchange St., PO Box 426
Emporia, Kansas 66801-3040
620-342-2800 · wawhitehouse@kshs.org
www.kshs.org/places/white/